

Corporal Carl Stacey Hopkins

Canadian Armed Forces

Family Life:

Carl Hopkins was born January 9th, 1922, in Tobermory, Ontario. His parents were Clifford Allen (Barney) Hopkins and Clara Hopkins (nee Belrose).

Carl grew up in Tobermory attending St. Edmunds Public School. He eventually moved to Toronto to attend George Brown College for a welding course.

On October 19th, 1946, Carl married Jacqueline Smith. The couple had six children including Susanne, Stacey, Mitchell, Jack, Byron, and Allan.

Before enlisting with the military, Carl had a job building boats with his father. After his service, he used these skills to build boats and operate a charter service.

He was a proud member of Tobermory's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 290.

Carl passed away suddenly in May of 1962.

Military Service:

Corporal Hopkins enlisted with the Highland Light Infantry on June 24th, 1940.



Military Service:

Corporal Hopkins was stationed in Stratford and Debert, Nova Scotia, for infantry training. After completing his initial training, Corporal Hopkins embarked for the United Kingdom where he stayed for the next three years.

The Highland Light Infantry of Canada was attached to the 9th Brigade of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division during the invasion of France. The 9th Brigade landed in Normandy at Bernières-sur-Mer on the afternoon of D-Day, June 6th, 1944. During the Battle of Normandy the Highland Light Infantry fought through Caen, Buron, the Bourguébus Ridge, Falaise, and Chambois.

After the breakout from Normandy, the unit participated in clearing the Channel Ports of Boulogne and Calais. The Highland Light Infantry also participated in the Battle of the Scheldt, the Battles of the Rhineland and the liberation of the Netherlands in late 1944 and early 1945. Corporal Hopkins participated in many of these actions.

In October 1945, the Highland Light Infantry was returned to Canada and Corporal Hopkins was discharged on January 30th, 1946.



Decorations:

Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp
1939-1945 War Medal
France and Germany Star
Defense Medal

Lessons Learned:

Corporal Carl Hopkins was nominated for Honouring Our Local Veterans by his son Stacey. Stacey noted that Carl did not talk much about his experiences during the Second World War.